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IN THE CLAIMS

    The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-14 in accordance with the following:

    1. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system ~~wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing of one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client~~, <u>comprising:</u>

    ~~said~~<u>a</u> client ~~comprising~~<u>including</u>

    highlighted file registration means for accepting from a user a request for registration of a highlighted file and performing registration <u>of only a file name</u> on a highlighted file list, and ~~also~~<u>for</u> notifying ~~said~~<u>a</u> server of registration information for said highlighted file[[;]]<u>.</u>

    highlighted file management means for acquiring information pertaining to said highlighted file through said server and managing the same[[;]]<u>.</u> and

    highlighted file status display means for displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file[[,]]<u>;</u> and

    said server ~~comprising~~<u>including</u>

    highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names registered to said ~~each~~ client using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client[[;]]<u>.</u> and

    highlighted file information notification means for acquiring information pertaining to a highlighted file managed by the highlighted file table management means, and giving notification thereof to the client where the highlighted file is registered<u>,</u>

    <u>wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and</u>

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wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing channels set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

2. (Currently Amended) The shared information processing system according to Claimclaim 2, wherein said highlighted file information notification means acquires basic information, such as where said highlighted file is stored, and notifies said client thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The shared information processing system according to Claimclaim 1, wherein said highlighted file information notification means acquires update information, such as when and by whom said highlighted file was updated, and notifies said client thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The shared information processing system according to Claimclaim 1, wherein said server further comprisesincludes user information management means for acquiring user information about a user that has registered and highlighted said file at said client, and notifies the administrator of said highlighted file of statistical information based on said user information.

5. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing of one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client, comprising:

said a server comprisingincluding

highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names registered to said each client using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client and for managing the

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correspondence between a <u>virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel")</u> channel and a highlighted file related to that channel[[;]]. and

update information notification means for acquiring update information for said channel and updating information pertaining to the a corresponding highlighted file, acquiring update information for said highlighted file and updating information pertaining to the corresponding channel, and notifying each client of the update information; and

said client comprisingincluding

highlighted file management means for acquiring information pertaining to a highlighted file related to said channel through the server and managing the same[[;]]. and

highlighted file status display means for displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file,

<u>wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and</u>

<u>wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing channels set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.</u>

6. (Currently Amended) The shared information processing system according to Claim claim 5, the server further comprisingincluding

accessory part management means for managing the correspondence between accessory parts of a highlighted file related to a channel and accessory parts within [[a]]said channel[[;]], and

accessory part update information management means for acquiring update information for accessory parts within said channel and updating information for accessory parts within said channel and updating information pertaining to accessory parts of the corresponding highlighted file, and acquiring update information for accessory parts within said highlighted file and updating information pertaining to accessory parts within the corresponding channel, and notifying said each client of said update information.

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7. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system ~~wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing of one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client~~, comprising:

a said client ~~compromising~~including

highlighted file name extraction means for extracting file names that can be registered as highlighted files from a chat character string inputted by a user within a channel[[;]]~~,~~

highlighted file registration determination means for determining whether or not a file corresponding to an extracted file name is to be registered as a highlighted file[[;]]~~,~~

highlighted file registration means for registering a highlighted file as related to ~~the~~ a corresponding virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel") ~~channel~~ when the highlighted file registration determination means determines that a highlighted file is to be registered, and notifying ~~said~~ a server of registration information for said highlighted file[[;]]~~,~~

highlighted file management means for acquiring information pertaining to said highlighted file through said server and managing the same[[;]] and

highlighted file status display means for displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file[[,]]~~;~~ and

said server ~~comprising~~including

highlighted file table management means for managing highlighted file names registered to said client using ~~the~~ registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of said client[[;]]~~,~~ and

highlighted file information notification means for acquiring information pertaining to a highlighted file managed by said highlighted file table management means, and giving notification thereof to the channel or the client where said highlighted file is registered,

wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing channels set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

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8. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system ~~wherein a plurality of~~ ~~users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter~~ ~~"channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and~~ ~~the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client~~, comprising:

said~~a~~ client ~~comprising~~including

highlighted file information management means for managing information pertaining to a highlighted file related to <u>a virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel")</u>~~said~~ ~~channel[[;]]~~,

highlighted file action notification means for notifying said~~a~~ server of action information pertaining to an action performed on said highlighted file by a user[[;]], and

highlighted file action user display means for receiving from said server action information about a highlighted file registered as related with said ~~each~~ channel, and displaying a list of action information; and

said server ~~comprising~~including

highlighted file action user notification means for notifying the other clients or channels of an action on a highlighted file about which notification has been given by said client,

<u>wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and</u>

<u>wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing channels set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.</u>

9. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system ~~wherein a plurality of~~ ~~users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter~~ ~~"channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and~~ ~~the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client~~, comprising:

a~~said~~ client ~~comprising~~including

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highlighted file registration means for receiving from a user a request for registration of a highlighted file and registering said highlighted file, and also notifying the other clients of the registration information for said highlighted file through said network[[;]],

highlighted file management means for acquiring through the network information pertaining to said highlighted file using registration information about which notification has been given by the highlighted file registration means of the other clients and managing the same[[;]], and

highlighted file status display means for displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file,

wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and

wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channels") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

10. (Currently Amended) A shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client, comprising:

a said client comprising including

highlighted file information management means for managing information pertaining to a highlighted file related to said each channel a virtual chat room (hereinafter "channel")[[;]],

highlighted file action notification means for notifying the other clients of action information pertaining to an action performed on said highlighted file by a user[[;]], and

highlighted file action user display means for receiving action information about a highlighted file about which notification has been given by another client, and displaying a list of action information about registered highlighted files,

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wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored,

wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing channels set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that storesstoring a shared information processing program for causing a computer to executeprogram for a shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing of one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client; :

said recording medium storing a program for a client system comprising highlighted file registration means for receiving from a user a request for the registration of a highlighted file and performing registration on a highlighted file list, and also notifying said server of registration information for said highlighted file;

highlighted file management means for acquiring information pertaining to said highlighted file through saida server and managing the same; and

highlighted file status display means for displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file,

wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and

wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channels") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a program for a shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing of one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other

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~~clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client,~~ storing a shared information processing program for causing a computer to execute:

~~said recording medium storing a program for a server system comprising highlighted file table management means for~~ managing highlighted file names registered by ~~said each~~ a client using ~~the~~ registration information about which notification has been given by said client; and

~~highlighted file information notification means for~~ acquiring information pertaining to a managed highlighted file ~~managed by the highlighted file table management means~~, and giving notification thereof to the client where the highlighted file is registered,

wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored, and

wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by sharing virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channels") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and notify other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through a client.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method ~~program~~ for effecting the function of a server used in a shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client, ~~said program effecting the functions of~~ method comprising:

~~highlighted file table management means for~~ managing highlighted file names for said each channel using ~~the~~ registration information about which notification from said client has been given; and

~~highlighted file information notification means for~~ acquiring information pertaining to a highlighted file managed by said highlighted file table management means, and giving notification thereof to the client who is connected to a channel where the highlighted file is registered,

wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored.

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14. (Currently Amended) A ~~program~~ computer-implemented method for effecting the function of a client used in a shared information processing system wherein a plurality of users can communicate simultaneously by the sharing one of virtual chat rooms (hereinafter "channel") set up on a network by a server and clients interconnected over said network, and the notifying of other clients of a chat character string inputted by a user through one said client, ~~said program effecting the functions of~~ method comprising:

~~highlighted file registration means for~~ receiving from a user a request for ~~the~~ registration of a highlighted file and performing ~~the~~ registration on a highlighted file list, and also notifying said server of registration information for said highlighted file;

~~highlighted file management means for~~ acquiring information pertaining to said highlighted file through said server and managing the same; and

~~highlighted file status display means for~~ displaying information pertaining to said highlighted file,

wherein highlighted file names indicate locations where the files are stored.

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